



# Safety Alert

From the International Association of Drilling Contractors

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ALERT 98-20

## Flush Mounted Slips

### WHAT HAPPENED:

A contractor encountered an incident involving the use of Flush Mounted Slips (FMS), which resulted in the release of a string of casing into the well.

### CORRECTIVE ACTION:

The contractor discussed the incident with casing contractors and equipment suppliers. They issued the following guidelines for operating with FMS:

1. Safety clamps or dog collars should not be used in conjunction with Flush Mounted Slips.
2. The casing company should have a written procedure, specific to the equipment, in which a pressure reduction for lightweight strings is available and which clearly shows the pressure adjustments recommended for the relevant string weights.
3. The hydraulic operating pressure should be verified by the driller before the start of running or pulling casing, when pressure adjustment is required, and during handover.
4. The slips should only be operated after a verbal command from the driller, which should be "OPEN SLIPS" or "CLOSE SLIPS." Hand signals or a nod of the head should not be used, as these can be misinterpreted.
5. Toolbox talks and/or pre-tour meetings should be held with all relevant personnel to discuss the specific procedures and risks associated with using or handling Flush Mounted Slips.
6. The driller(s) should ensure that procedures are followed during the job, and that effective communications are in place between himself and the casing crew, and also between the drill crew and casing crew.
7. A Job Safety Analysis (JSA) should be prepared prior to commencement of casing runs. Information on performing JSAs is contained in the *IADC Accident Prevention Reference Guide*.

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**The Corrective Actions stated in this alert are one company's attempts to address the incident, and do not necessarily reflect the position of IADC or the IADC HSE Committee.**

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